

BOOK REVIEWS

CLINICAL CYSTOSCOPY—Technic, Procedures, Diagnosis, Treatment. By Lowrain E. McCrea, M.D., Clinical Professor of Urology, Temple University Medical School. Drawings by B. Engle Shaffer. In Two Volumes—742 illustrations, 201 in color. Second Edition. F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia, 1949. \$28.00.

The second edition of this work has been largely rewritten and brought up to date. Several new chapters have been added. Like the first edition, this is a text on cystoscopic diagnosis and procedure which thoroughly covers most diseases seen in urologic practice. It is a book for the part-time urologist and for those in closely allied specialties. The text is concise, but sufficiently comprehensive, and is suitable for quick, office reference. The book is printed with clear type on good paper and is very readable.

There are over 700 illustrations, drawings, paintings and photographs. Most of these are excellent and clearly depict most cystoscopic procedures, pathologic lesions, and x-rays of various urologic conditions. There are numerous actual color, intravesical photographs of normal and pathologic conditions which are well done and add greatly to the interest of the book. Rarely seen in such profusion in most textbooks, these color photographs were carried out by a method perfected by the author himself.

Data on the sulfonamides and antibiotics, which are complete and detailed, are not confined to a single chapter, but are spread through the book and discussed in relation to various different pathologic conditions.

There is an excellent section on urology in children, a chapter usually neglected in urologic texts. Prostatic hypertrophy and the latest developments in transurethral resection are covered briefly but adequately. The colored plates showing consecutive cystoscopic views of the vesical neck in the presence of obstruction are of considerable value in understanding and demonstrating the technique of prostatic resection.

The index has been enlarged and emphasizes the diagnostic and therapeutic features of the text. The bibliography is very complete and makes the book a valuable asset to any urologist's library.

The text in general covers a lot of paper; some of the pictures, quite small in size, occupy an entire page. Possibly the material in the two volumes could be included in a single volume of no greater size or weight, and with a considerable saving in the cost of the book.

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HANDBOOK OF DISEASES OF THE SKIN. By Richard L. Sutton, M.D., Emeritus Professor of Dermatology and Syphilology, University of Kansas Medical School, and Richard L. Sutton, Jr., M.D., Associate Professor of Dermatology and Syphilology, University of Kansas Medical School. 1,057 illustrations. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, Mo., 1949. \$12.50.

This volume is a most worthy successor to the previous texts, both large and small, which the Suttons have written from time to time over a period of years. The attractiveness of binding, the convenience of small size, the comprehensiveness of its subject matter and the fine quality of illustrations combine to make the book a "must" on the reference shelf of not only the dermatologist, but the internist, the general practitioner and the student as well.

The authors have contrived to present the subject matter of dermatology and syphilology in a brief but not abbreviated form. Not only the common but also the rare dermatoses and cutaneous syndromes are described and adequate

references to the literature are included in each paragraph as they occur.

Three sizes of printing are employed in the text: A standard, easily readable type for the bulk of the text, a slightly smaller type for discussions which are of interest but are not essential for an understanding of the text, and a still smaller type for various laboratory procedures, etc. This is one of the methods by which compactness has been achieved without any sacrifice of essential material.

The book achieves a standard of high quality in a convenient size.

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TEXTBOOK OF MEDICINE. By various authors, edited by Sir John Conybeare, K.B.E., M.C., D.M. (Oxon.), F.R.C.P., Physician to Guy's Hospital, London, Ninth Edition. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, 1949. \$8.00.

Any textbook which has gone through nine editions and five reprints in the course of 20 years has almost certainly got to be good. And such is the case with Conybeare's ninth edition as a British text for medical students. The discussions of disease conditions are succinct, pointed, clear and commonsensical. The illustrations are few but excellent. Compared to similar American texts it is somewhat shorter and equally inclusive.

That it is primarily a text for British students, however, is emphasized at frequent intervals. The terminology is British and includes such items as weights in stone rather than pounds, British pharmacopeial names, and British names for various diseases. Dosages are given in either the apothecary or the metric system, according to the taste of the individual contributor. This may show the independence of the various authors but is apt to be confusing for the student.

Despite recent revision, the book is several years behind on certain advances in medicine. In particular, the newer drug therapy is lacking. Thiouracil is discussed but propylthiouracil is omitted. Sulfanilamide is still recommended as the drug of choice for hemolytic streptococcus infections. The method of administration of penicillin is likewise at least two years behind date. Croton oil purgation is recommended for cerebral hemorrhage. The section on endocrinology seems generally sketchy. For example, discussion of the menopause is limited to one page.

For the American student this is not as valuable as one of the standard American texts on general medicine. However, it can be recommended as a useful and worthwhile book for study and reference.

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THE ADRENAL GLAND. By Frank A. Hartman, Ph.D., Research Professor of Physiology, Ohio State University, and Katharine A. Brownell, Ph.D., Instructor in Physiology, Ohio State University. Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, 1949. \$12.00.

This scholarly book on the adrenal gland covers all phases of the subject: Anatomy, embryology, physiology and clinical disorders. The fundamental laboratory work is comprehensively reviewed, a task for which the authors, who have done original work in the field, are well qualified. An immense amount of factual material is given and the bibliography covers well over 100 closely printed pages. The book is handsomely printed and illustrated with numerous tables and charts. While experts in the field no doubt will criticize small points, this monograph certainly represents the most comprehensive encyclopedia on the subject at the present time.